County Author on Assassination Calls New Orleans DA 'Serious'

By Penny Zweigenhaft
Sentinel Reporter

Skepticism is the most common reaction to New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison's disclosure that he is investigating President John F. Kennedy's assassination and can identify the conspirators and their accessories.

But Harold Weisberg, author of "Whitewash -- The Report on the Warren Report" and "Whitewash II -- The FBI-Secret Service Cover-up," is delighted with Garrison's probe.

"From what I know that Mr. Garrison can say and hasn't," remarked the Hyattstown author, "I'm convinced he's a man with a very serious purpose whose objective is not publicity but the proper discharge of the responsibilities of a public prosecutor.

"I think his purpose is just what he says it is -- to solve a crime. And Garrison is the first public official to declare publicly what I wrote --that Lee Harvey Oswald could not have committed the crime."

Weisberg theorized that much of Garrison's information is based on a follow-up of information in the FBI files.

"I think what he has is what they (the Warren Commission members and staff) ignored to begin with and what they subsequently ignored," he noted.

"Right now Garrison has substantially more than anyone else has come up with," commented Weisberg, "although as far as what he's said publicly, there's no more than in my first book."

The district attorney has declared his investigation shows Oswald was the patsy rather than the assassin, a position taken by Weisberg in "Whitewash."

"My evaluation, limited entirely to what I have found buried in the hearings and suppressed in the report, is that he (Oswald) was the 'pigeon.' My only doubt is whether, at least to begin with, he knew," wrote Weisberg.

He pointed out in the second volume that the FBI had checked Oswald before the assassination, at the request of acquaintances who were worried at seeing his copy of Karl Marx's "Capital," and found "that Oswald was all right."

"I think it's very likely that the assassination began with a plot to kill Fidel Castro by a group of Cuban refugees," Weisberg said this week. "They hated Kennedy, too, especially after the Bay of Pigs.

"In fact," he added, "I wouldn't be surprised if what Garrison is talking about is in my books -- the obvious and suppressed involvement of Cuban refugee groups."

In a chapter on "The False 'False Oswald' " in "Whitewash II," Weisberg devotes several pages to three men active in anti-Castro activities -- Loran Eugene Hall, Lawrence Howard and William Houston Seymour.

Seymour, whom Hall describes as "similar in appearance to Lee Harvey Oswald" in the commission's report, identified himself as Oswald in a visit to a Cuban refugee in Dallas with the other two men before the assassination, Weisberg says the FBI found.

Weisberg questions, however, why "anyone would want to counterfeit such an unimportant man as Oswald then was," calling the handling of this subject "one of the more conspicuous incompetences of the report."

As for pilot David William Ferrie, who died last week, Weisberg does not challenge Garrison's statement that Ferrie was involved in events leading to the assassination of Kennedy.

"Ferrie was a pervert, as a number of the figures in this story are," noted Weisberg. "He was a pilot, a skill that was important to the plot, and he was politically in sympathy, from his own public statements.

"I don't believe, though, that Ferrie was supposed to be the getaway pilot for Oswald," he added, "because I don't think Oswald or anyone else planned for Oswald to assassinate the President."

Weisberg's second book refers to a "Mr. Farry" in a question asked by Secret Service agents of Oswald's mother during a session Nov. 24. Weisberg contends this is the same man as Ferrie, who was arrested in New Orleans Nov. 25.

Evidence about Ferrie was "totally suppressed" by the commission, he added.

The author declared it was "impossible" to say whether Ferrie's death was natural or a suicide.

"But it's hard to believe a man would write a suicide note and die a natural death," he added, referring to a note found in Ferrie's apartment.

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Captain W. P. Gannaway
Special Service Bureau
Dallas Police Department

Thru:
Lieutenant Jack Revill
Criminal Intelligence Section
Special Service Bureau
Dallas Police Department

February 17, 1964

SUBJECT: CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE (6)
TEOFIL MELLER

Sir:

Pursuant to the instructions of Captain W. P. GANNAWAY, SUBJECT was interviewed by the undersigned officers and the following report submitted.

[illegible] 2703 Mercedes in Fort Worth two or three times after that to take them food and clothing. OSWALD became very belligerent on these occasions, saying that he didn't need or want help from anyone. MRS. MELLER also said that she saw the book, "CAPITAL", which was written by KARL MARX, during one of these visits at OSWALD'S house and became very worried about it. SUBJECT said he checked with the FBI and they told him that OSWALD was all right.

SUBJECT stated that a friend of his, MRS. CUNNINGHAM with the TEXAS EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION, helped OSWALD get a job with a photo engraving company in Dallas in October of 1962. When SUBJECT told OSWALD that he should thank her for getting him the job, he said, "Why should I thank anyone for getting [illegible] where I only [illegible]

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Respectfully submitted,

F. A. Hellinghausen

F. A. Hellinghausen, Detective
Criminal Intelligence Section

P. M. Parks

P. M. Parks, Detective
Criminal Intelligence Section

FBI Had Found Oswald Was 'All Right'

A document reproduced in Harold Weisberg's "Whitewash II—The FBI-Secret Service Coverup" shows the FBI had checked Lee Harvey Oswald before the assassination of President Kennedy and found him "all right."

Weisberg maintains the current New Orleans probe backs up his earlier conclusion about a conspiracy which used Oswald as a fall guy.